

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ANNOUNCES 43 PERCENT OF
MISSOURI'S TRASH IS RECYCLED**

Waste reduction is essential

JEFFERSON CITY, MO, SEPT. 30, 2003 – The Missouri Department of Natural Resources recently announced that Missouri is keeping an estimated 43 percent of its trash out of landfills.

“By focusing on recycling and reusing trash instead of just throwing it away, Missouri continues to reduce solid waste in landfills,” said Steve Mahfood director of the Department of Natural Resources. “Businesses have been able to make new products using materials that would have been thrown away.”

During the past 10 years, the department has provided grants and information to help create recycling services across the state. Cities, counties, businesses and schools have all played a part in improving the way Missourians manage their solid waste.

The solid waste management districts also contribute to the success of waste reduction. The districts put local solid waste management plans into practice. Within 10 years, the number of Missouri communities with recycling collection services has increased to 403 from 68. Communities with yard waste collection services also increased to 311 from 127.

In 2002, the department estimates Missourians threw away 1.09 tons of waste per person. This is down from 1.33 tons per person in 1990. However, the amount of trash generated statewide has increased from 10.6 million tons in 2001 to 10.9 million tons in 2002.

“While Missouri is recycling more trash, we must not lose sight of the fact that we are also creating more waste,” said Mahfood.

Waste reduction tips for businesses include order in bulk; use two-sided printing; reuse office scrap paper for copying internal memos and documents, or for scratchpads; conduct only “green” meetings using reusable cups, glasses, plates and utensils; and buy rechargeable ribbon cartridges for typewriters and printers.

Waste reduction tips for households include buy in bulk; buy concentrated products; avoid purchasing over-packaged products; buy refillable or reusable containers; donate old magazines to nursing homes or hospitals; and remove your name from mailing lists you no longer want to receive by writing to the Direct Marketing Association, Mail Preference Service, P.O. Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008.

The department has several fact sheets, technical bulletins and brochures on the Web that can provide you with additional ways to reduce waste. For additional ways to reduce waste in your business or home, visit the department's Web site at www.dnr.mo.gov/alpd/swmp/publist.htm or contact Dennis Hansen at 1-800-361-4827 or (573) 751-5401.

For news releases on the Web, visit www.dnr.mo.gov/newsrel. For a complete listing of the department's upcoming meetings, hearings and events, visit the department's online calendar at www.dnr.mo.gov/oac/calendar.htm.

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